

Bush
Cleveland City Club
6/25/76

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RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED WITH THE CLEAR INTENT OF FURTHERING THE AGENCY'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE MISSION. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN AIMED AT INFLUENCING OR IMPROPERLY ACTING ON ANY AMERICAN INSTITUTION.

ON FEBRUARY 11 OF THIS YEAR, I ISSUED A POLICY STATEMENT THAT SAID, IN PART: "EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, CIA WILL NOT ENTER INTO ANY PAID OR CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME NEWS CORRESPONDENT ACCREDITED BY ANY U.S. NEWS SERVICE, NEWSPAPER, PERIODICAL, RADIO OR TELEVISION NETWORK OR STATION. AS SOON AS FEASIBLE, THE AGENCY WILL BRING EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIVIDUALS IN THESE GROUPS INTO CONFORMITY WITH THIS NEW POLICY."

I HAD THOUGHT THAT THIS STATEMENT WOULD BE MORE THAN CLEAR, BUT THE MEDIA HAS CONTINUED TO WONDER WHETHER THERE WERE SOME LOOPHOLES LEFT. THE POLICY I SET OUT ON FEBRUARY 11 IN REALITY REPRESENTED A VOLUNTARY LIMITATION ON OUR PART OF PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE INTELLIGENCE FUNCTIONS. WE DID THIS BECAUSE WE ACCEPT THE GENUINE CONCERN OF THE MEDIA, AND BECAUSE WE, TOO, WISH TO AVOID EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF ANY IMPROPER USE BY THE AGENCY OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR FREE PRESS.

LET ME MAKE THESE ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS WHICH RESPOND TO VARIOUS QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT MY FEBRUARY 11 POLICY DIRECTIVE. WITH REGARD TO THE WORD "ACCREDITED," WE MEAN ANY FULL OR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES -- INCLUDING STRINGERS -- OF

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AMERICAN OR FOREIGN NATIONALITY WHO ARE FORMALLY AUTHORIZED BY CONTRACT OR BY THE ISSUANCE OF PRESS CREDENTIALS TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES AS CORRESPONDENTS FOR AN AMERICAN NEWS-GATHERING ORGANIZATION OR WHO ARE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED (ACCREDITED) BY A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TO REPRESENT AN AMERICAN NEWS-GATHERING ORGANIZATION.

FURTHER: THE CIA WILL NOT USE FULL-TIME AMERICAN JOURNALISTS OR STRINGERS FOR ANY INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES. I MUST STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS SUBJECT TO THE CONDITION I EMPHASIZED ON FEBRUARY 11 THAT CONTACT IS PERMITTED WITH JOURNALISTS OR ANY OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO VOLUNTARILY SEEK CONTACT WITH THE AGENCY AT HOME OR ABROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSMITTING ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS INTELLIGENCE OR COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE SECURITY INFORMATION WITHOUT FINANCIAL REMUNERATION OR OTHER FAVOR. MY INTENTION IN CONTINUING TO AUTHORIZE SUCH CONTACTS IS OBVIOUS: IT IS TO PERMIT INDIVIDUAL JOURNALISTS, OR MEMBERS OF ANY OTHER PROFESSION OR GROUP, TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT AS AMERICAN CITIZENS TO REPORT INFORMATION VOLUNTARILY AND WITTINGLY TO THEIR GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE AGENCY. I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE THAT NO ONE SHOULD UNEQUIVOCALLY DENY ANY AMERICAN CITIZEN, INCLUDING JOURNALISTS, THIS RIGHT.

BY THE SAME TOKEN, NEITHER CAN WE BETRAY THE TRUST IMPOSED ON US BY SUCH INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM WE HAVE MADE COMMITMENTS OF CONFIDENTIALITY. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT